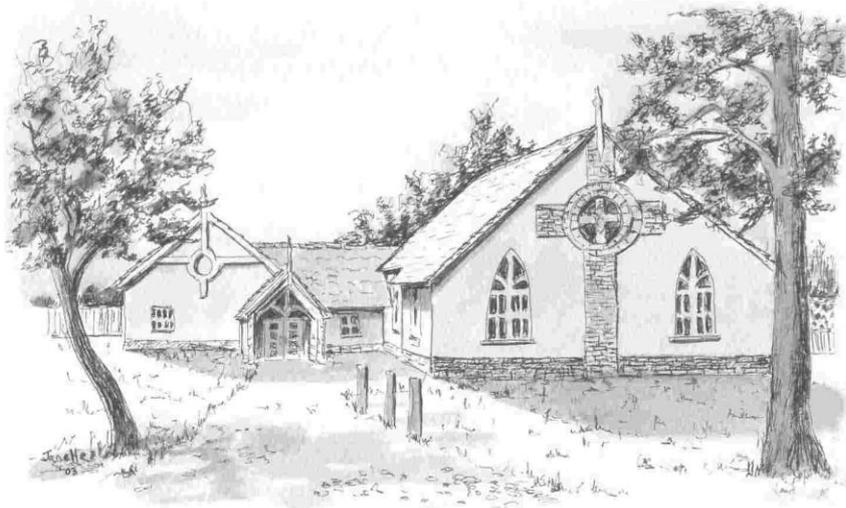


# Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities  
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

November 2009

## The Parish of Sonning

The ancient parish of Sonning, originally extending from Sonning Common to Sandhurst was one of the great blocks of land handed over to the Church in the 7th century. In 909 A.D. Sonning with Ramsbury, became a separate bishopric, the Bishop of Ramsbury/ Sonning maintaining a riverside Hall in the village. In 1075 the see was transferred to Old Sarum, ultimately Salisbury, whose bishops had their own Palace on the same site as the Saxon Hall until 1574, when the manor was transferred to the Crown.

St Andrew's Church in the heart of the village was founded in Saxon times - probably by Birinus, first bishop of Dorchester-on-Thames. It was largely rebuilt in 1852, during the incumbency of Canon Hugh Pearson; it was he who founded the Sonning Parish Magazine in 1869.

The White Hart Hotel, now known as The Great House, and partly 17th century, stands on the site of older buildings including the home of 'Elias the Ferryman' mentioned in a deed of 1100. The French Horn Hotel, in Sonning Eye, was built in the 1880s in front of the original old inn - now Bridge House - and its farm buildings. The Bull Inn, belonging to the Church, was originally known as Church House, a guesthouse for pilgrims to medieval St Sarik's Chapel in St Andrew's. Also adjoining the church is Deanery Garden one of Sir Edwin Lutyen's best-known country houses built at the turn of the century, just above the site of the ancient residence of the Deans of Salisbury who regularly visited Sonning, the parish being a 'Dean's Peculiar'.

Sonning Mill produced a regular supply of flour from Saxon time until 1969, after which it was converted into a 'Dinner Theatre', the first of its kind in Britain. The Pearson Hall is the principal venue for village functions

Within the village boundaries lie the Reading Blue Coat School at Holme Park (once the home of the Lord of the Manor) Sonning Church of England Primary School, King George's Field and other sports grounds, and Reading University Farm - all of which help to preserve the rural atmosphere of Sonning, the centre of which is now a conservation area.

The civil parish of Charvil is of relatively recent origin but the land on which it lies has long been part of the ecclesiastical parish of Sonning. In the 18th and 19th centuries it consisted of Charville Farm and a few cottages, which lay between the villages of Sonning and Twyford and adjacent to the London to Bath highway.

The development of Charvil began between the two World Wars, particularly after the new A4 road was constructed in the 1920s bypassing Twyford, and was accelerated after 1945. To meet the needs of this increasingly large community, St Patrick's dual-purpose Church and Hall was consecrated and opened in 1952; it remains within the ecclesiastical parish of Sonning. It was considerably extended and refurbished in 2001.

## St Andrew's Sonning Contacts

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## Forthcoming Events

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7 Nov	Rotary Inner Wheel Jazz Night	R
8 Nov	RBL Sonning Remembrance day Parade and Service	21
21 Nov	Parish Walk	23
25 Nov	Concert of Music and Carols	25
26 Nov	RBL Sonning AGM	21
28 Nov	Charvil Village Society Barn Dance	22
28 Nov	Parish Quiet day	16
5 Dec	CE School PTA Christmas Fair	23
12 Dec	Pearson hall Social Committee Christmas Supper	28
14 Dec	CE School Carol Service	23
<b>2010</b>		
23 Jan	FoStAC; Reading Male Voice Choir concert, St Andrew's	19
13/14 Mar	St Patrick's Festival	R
8 May	Christian aid Concert	R
<b>Notes:</b>	<b>Deadline, December Magazine: 4.00 pm Fri, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009</b> R = Reminder from previous issue. D = Diary entry.	

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## Regular Services

### The Parish Church

Sundays	8 am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
	10.30 am	Family Service, first Sunday of the month Parish Eucharist, second, fourth and fifth Sundays.  Matins, third Sunday.
	6.30 pm	Evensong, except third Sunday of the month, when it will be Holy Communion with the laying on of hands for those who wish it.
Wednesdays	10 am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's

### St Patrick's Charvil

Sundays	9.30 am	Family Service, Third Sunday of the month Holy Communion, second and fourth Sundays Worship Service other Sundays.  Sunday School 9.30 am except third Sunday of the month
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*If you would like to arrange a Church Service in St. Andrew's Church you are asked to contact Sonia Boyles, the Parish Administrator for Baptisms. Sonia can also be contacted by email at: [standrews.sonning@btinternet.com](mailto:standrews.sonning@btinternet.com). For Weddings and funerals, contact the vicar on 0118 969 3298.*

### The Vicar's Letter

Dear friends,

This lunchtime I turned on the television and witnessed the Prime Minister read out the names of 37 soldiers who have died since the House of Commons was last in session. The tributes and platitudes that then followed were lost on me, as indeed were the rest of the proceedings of Prime Minister's Question time. Thirty-seven young men, dead. The enormity of it should make all right-thinking people simply pause in an attempt to comprehend the sheer awfulness of the loss. The scale of bereavement suffered by the families of our armed forces in the two most recent conflicts is just beyond imagining.

So many families of servicemen and women have been left devastated in recent years because of the loss of loved one. Whatever we might think of the rights and wrongs of our involvement in those conflicts, there can be no doubt that our gallant armed forces are engaged in a struggle against murderous evil, and those who have sacrificed their lives have at least done so in an attempt to thwart those who seek to destroy freedom and decency.

These heroes join a depressingly long list of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defence of the liberties we so often take for granted. In June we commemorated those who fell on D Day and at the battle of Normandy. Next year, and more positively we shall have a village celebration for the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. As we prepare for our solemn commemoration on Remembrance Sunday, we rightly have both world wars in our minds, but it is also important that we are aware that remembrance is not just about honouring sacrifices of long ago. Young men, and occasionally women from our country are being killed, right now. Promising young lives cut short; children growing up without fathers; parents questioning why those whom they have nurtured and protected from birth have been taken; wives and husbands left with nothing but photographs of the one who made their life complete. We are insulated from so much of this loss and great sadness, and it is therefore important that we come together on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November to spend a little time to remember, and to pray, not just for those who have died and those left behind, but also for the vast number of soldiers who have been left with dreadful injuries. If you are someone who values our armed forces, and all that they have done throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries to defend our land, then I hope you will join with us on this most important occasion.

We will remember them.

With warmest wishes,

**Jamie**

### **Notices**

**Harvest:** Very many thanks to all those who contributed to our harvest offering to the orphanage in India. A wonderful total of over £2000 was raised which will make a huge difference in the lives of the young residents. Leslie Stephens from the St Andrew's congregation, whose father founded the orphanage, took the money personally to India in October on a prearranged trip, and he oversaw how it will be spent.

**Parish Quiet Day:** Sister Chris will once again be leading this opportunity to get away from our busy lives, and take a little time to reflect and be quiet with God. The day is entitled "Gospel Food", and is at the Buttery at the Reading Blue Coat School on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November. The day begins with coffee at 10:00am and finishes at 4:00pm. Please bring a packed lunch. If you are intending to come, please sign the list in one of our churches. Sister Chris will be preaching at both churches on the following morning.

**St Andrew's Day:** There will be a Patronal Evensong on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. During the service the new Junior Choir will be admitted into

membership, and their new robes, along with the new adult robes will be dedicated in memory of the three benefactors: David Penny, Eileen Welsby and Celia McKaig. The preacher will be the Revd. Canon Timothy Sedgley, former vicar of Walton on Thames, where Jamie trained as a curate. A toast to St. Andrew will be drunk at the Sonning Club in Pearson Road after the service and all are welcome.

### Confirmation photograph:



On October 13<sup>th</sup> the Bishop of Reading confirmed 18 candidates from this parish, baptising two and receiving a further three into membership of the Church of England. Copies of this picture are available to order from the Parish Administrator.

Abigael Sheppard, Elliot Warms, Emily Holland, Hannah Collis, Jack Collis, Ruoridh Sheppard, Timothy Forrer, Nicholas Warms, Francesca Keenlyside\*, Stephen Wilkinson, John Argent, Sandra Grist, Adrienne Skirka, Catherine Johnson, Emma Leggett, Carolyn Keel, Sally Keenlyside \*, Susan Whitty.

(\* also baptised)

**Received into the Church of England:** Alice Wilkinson, Cristian Jara, Geoffrey Lambourn.

**Footprints coffee morning:** From January 12<sup>th</sup>, and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 11.00am in the St. Sarik room, we shall be hosting an informal get together for those who are bereaved. It will be an opportunity to sit and meet others who are struggling with all the issues and pressures that grief presents us with. The format will simply be tables and chairs

loosely arranged, with refreshments laid on. Michael or I will always be present, as will one or two members of the pastoral visitor group, but there will be no agenda or timetable. We simply want to provide a quiet and safe location for people who have been hurt through personal loss to come together and be assured that they are not alone. If you are interested in helping, please let me know, and similarly, if you feel that this might be of help in your grief, please make a note of the date and time and come along.  
Jamie

**Emmaus Nurture Course:** Following the successful use of this course for the Confirmation group, we are now going to offer it more widely to serve as a refresher for more established Christians. There are 15 sessions and they will be held every other week on Wednesdays at 11.00 am in the St. Sarik room from January 13<sup>th</sup>. Places are limited, so please let the Vicar know if you are interested.

Jamie

### Charvil Viewpoint

Autumn is truly here with colder nights and falling leaves. The leaves that have lived through the summer of our discontent, but finally they have made a spectacular display of colour symbolising the Christian hope and belief that out of their dying there will come new life. However bad things have been, there will be a new beginning.

On Remembrance Sunday we will remember all those past and, more recently the present that have scarified their lives for the benefit, protection and security of ourselves and our loved ones. On All Souls day we will be remembering and thanking God for our relatives and friends who have left us a legacy of memories of all that we have appreciated in our relationship with them.

They too are fallen richly coloured leaves, but thanks to the greatest fallen leaf of all time, Jesus our Lord and Saviour, our hope of being reunited with them is well founded.

In the meantime we are called to live each day as it was our last, in other words to make the best possible use, with the help of the Holy Spirit, of whatever time is left to us before we too become multicoloured fallen leaves with a life behind us that hands on to our heirs and successors a reflection of the glory of God as seen in Christ Jesus.

Love and Prayers,

**Michael & Family**

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

27<sup>th</sup> September: Riley Smith.  
11<sup>th</sup> October: Jessica Layla Cowdery.  
18<sup>th</sup> October: James Hayward Argent. Luke Ryan Danile Souter.

### Wedding

26<sup>th</sup> September: Julie Jean Cooper and James Matthew Barclay

### Funeral

21<sup>st</sup> September: Hilda Brown

## Friends of St Andrew's Church

Two dates for your diaries:

**Christmas cards.** FoStAc Christmas cards will be on sale in both churches from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009.

**Concert.** The well-known and much acclaimed *Reading Male Voice Choir* will be presenting a concert in St Andrew's Church on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010; details will be announced later.

Jean Collin

### My first night.....as a Street Pastor!

Street Pastor, what's that? This was a frequent question as I was walking around the centre of Reading. Being 'new' to Reading, the Street Pastors are yet to be recognized on the streets. Street Pastors has been running for about 6 years, gradually spreading across the UK, coming to more towns and cities on a Friday and Saturday night between about 10pm and 3am. At the moment, it is only on a Friday in Reading, but with the vision to include Saturdays. Street Pastors are a group of volunteers from local churches wanting to serve our community by being of assistance to those partaking in the 'night life' in the town centre, particularly the vulnerable people, those too drunk to realize it, those abandoned by friends or struggling to work out how to get home. How do we help? We provide a listening ear, watchful eye, talk to those in trouble, helping where we can, hoping to bring a positive presence to the town centre. We carry a number of items, flip-flops for the feet that are too swollen to go back into shoes, tissues, plasters, first aid kits and cards with useful numbers for transport and for local support groups.

“Can’t they get themselves home, they got themselves drunk?” I was asked this a lot before I went out. Alcohol is a funny thing, it makes you feel invulnerable, that you feel sober when you are not; it makes people’s behaviour erratic without the person realizing it. This can cause arguments, fights, friends ‘falling out’ and innocent people getting hurt. Some people are just hurting from rigours of life, so they drink trying to find a way of dealing with their pain. How can we as Christians, not step out and help?

So, to my first night! The night was about getting to know the team, the police, the door staff, the taxi drivers and the revellers, out to enjoy themselves, learning what to deal with and when to walk away. We were on the streets to offer a helping hand, not to preach (as some feared); to add support to those in trouble and not to be a replacement for the police.

We were there for the young women and men punched for being in the wrong place at the wrong time: shocked, hurting, crying, as they tried to gather their friends together so they could go home. We listened, supported, provided a lollipop or two, we were just with them trying to provide a feeling of safety as they recovered. There was a familiar site of 2 girls walking along, one without shoes, heading to an area of broken glass - a warning was shouted and the girl puts on her shoes - and hopefully, there were no cut feet. Other areas we helped with were: in tissues provided to help stop the bleeding from a cut to an eye (following a fall); a presence around a girl who was having a problem with some unwanted attention; accompanying a girlfriend come to take her partner home, too drunk to state where he was, and getting to know the homeless people of Reading.

Behind the scenes, but ever present, was the support from our prayer pastors, praying constantly as we were walking about town. They prayed for the people we were helping as well as for the Lord’s protection for ourselves; the messages through the Holy Spirit and scripture came at just the time we needed it most.

Generally we were welcomed, with a ‘high five’ for the Street Pastors from some, viewed with suspicion by others. We had a warm welcome from the police and the door staff, introducing themselves and providing guidance as we were getting to know Reading’s ‘night life’. To all of them, I would like to say thank you.

How do I feel now? The night was awesome! I feel privileged to be able to serve the community of Reading, overwhelmed by the welcome we received and thankful for the support and guidance through prayer. As to the next time, I am looking forward but have to wait a whole month, as different groups go out each week.

If any of you are interested in being part of Street Pastor initiative, through volunteering for as Street Pastor or as a Prayer Pastor or through sponsoring

the project, through gift aid, then please contact [reading@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:reading@streetpastors.org.uk). Reading Street Pastors are not funded and rely wholly on donations to support this venture.

May God bless you. Come and say 'hello' if you see us.

**Julie Wearing**

## **Royal British Legion, Sonning Branch**

### **Sponsored Walk around the Edge of Berkshire**

This year's Poppy Appeal began with a novel event of all branches taking part in a sponsored walk around the edge of Old Berkshire. The Sonning Branch was allocated the walk from Caversham to Henley and two branch members took part, namely Ken Trimmings and Colin Pierce.

It was a glorious sunny day and Henley was crowded, but not to welcome the walkers. However people were extremely generous in their sponsorship and approximately £750 was raised for the Poppy Appeal. It is hoped that several thousand pounds will have been raised by Berkshire Royal British Legion as a whole.



This event was a warm-up for our main Poppy Appeal activities to be celebrated on Remembrance Sunday (8<sup>th</sup> November) when we will be holding our traditional march and service, which will be conducted by our Hon Chaplain the Rev Jamie Taylor. All are welcome at the service and any bodies which wish to join the march should notify the Branch Secretary (Mary Jones, 0118 944 2877) before the date. Of course, our poppy sellers will be very prominent in the days leading up to the Remembrance Day Service, so please give generously for, as I am sure everyone is aware, the demands on the Royal British Legion grow daily.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM will take place on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November in the St Sarik Room. There will be a pre-meeting drink at 7.30 pm, with the meeting commencing at 8.00 pm.

**Colin Pierce**

## **Charvil Village Society**

November 28th 2009 at 8.00 pm: A Barn Dance with Supper will be held in Charvil Village Hall, Park Lane, Charvil.

Dave Tindall and his band will provide the music and this promises to be a most enjoyable evening. The Charvil Village Society welcomes members and visitors to this ticket only event. For details and bookings call me on 0118 934 5419.

**Margaret Gregory**

### **Harvest Offering**

A big 'thank you' to everyone at St Andrew's, St Patrick's and Sonning C of E Primary School for giving so generously to the Karuneipuri Orphanage, India at the Harvest Services in October. The response was tremendous and a great boost for us.

Your Harvest Giving will be put to good use immediately. Every year at this time we look to provide new clothes for all the children. In addition we will be able to top up classroom resources and restock the games cupboard; footballs, soft balls, skipping ropes etc always need replacing. As part of the Christmas celebrations we will provide a special meal and small gifts such as soap, pens and pencils. The children always look forward to this. Remaining funds will help towards replacing a much used water pump.

Over the last three years your continued support has helped enormously to improve the lives of the children at the orphanage. Once again our sincere thanks for your kindness and encouragement.

**Leslie and Janet Stephen**

### **Sonning Cricket Club - a season to beat all seasons!**

I am delighted to report that Sonning CC has won just about every trophy going this year and that the 1<sup>st</sup> XI have taken the club to its highest league level ever, having just won Division 3 of the Thames Valley League at the first attempt. In addition to that, our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI won Division 6 of the TVL, our 3<sup>rd</sup> XI finished runner-up in Division 3 of the Berks League to gain promotion, we also won Division 1 of the Midweek league unbeaten at the first attempt and our Under 11s won Division C of the Berkshire Youth League, also in their debut season ! In total our teams won 76 out of 95 matches played and lost a measly 14. This makes 2009 the best-ever season in the club's distinguished 260-year history and one that will be very hard to beat!

Amongst the notable individual performers were the smiling assassin from The Bull, Retief Van der Walt, who smashed an astonishing 2000 runs this season at an average of 70 and also notched up an equally remarkable 53 catches and stumpings. Club stalwarts Mark “Jethro” Richards with 1150 runs and pace bowlers Harvey Grout and Ghulam Abbas with over 40 wickets each, were also key to the success. And then of course there was the fresh-faced and ever-willing Queenslander, Wade Johnston, who accumulated over 1100 runs and took 85 wickets.

The junior section is going from strength to strength thanks to the great efforts of Neil Methold and Nick Ray and colleagues, and next season they will be running teams at U9, U11 and U13 to cope with rapid increase in recruitment of keen youngsters.

Next year will be a massive step-up for a village club like Sonning, with the 1<sup>st</sup> XI in the heady heights of TVL Division 2, and we will need to make work hard to hold our own at that level, but for now, we will savour what has been a truly remarkable season. Finally, our Annual Dinner-Dance extravaganza takes place at Sonning Golf Club on Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Nov, so please contact me on 9692698 if you are interested in coming along. To find out more about our friendly and successful cricket club, log on to [www.sonningcc.co.uk](http://www.sonningcc.co.uk)

**Ali Driver**

### **Parish Walk**

Nov 21<sup>st</sup>. Meet 10.15 am, Peppard Common, opposite the Red Lion, GR 709818. Walk via Kent’s hill and Cowfields Farm, one hill, 5 miles. More information from Jean Milbourn 0118 926 8035 or 079820 48387.

**Jean Milbourn**

### **Sonning CE Primary School**

Another school year is well and truly underway and what a busy few weeks we have had. Fourteen new children have joined our youngest class (Acorn) with several new families to the school. Our staff team has remained much as it was last academic year - although in November Gill Kelsall, our Deputy Head, will be going on maternity leave and we shall welcome Helen Bethall to the staff team as she job shares Holly Class (Year 4) with Louise Micklewhite to cover this period.

A number of exciting things have already happened including our Health and Fitness week, a visit by the Eureka science and maths theatre; class visits to Hampton Court (Year 6) and Intech in Winchester (Year 2) AND THE Loius Taylor Road Safety Roadshow provided by Wokingham Borough Council. The children in Years 3 and 4 are enjoying their swimming lessons at the Arthur

Hill Pool and Berkshire Maestros are in each Monday afternoon teaching Year 3 how to play a woodwind instrument. We are all thrilled with our lovely new quiet garden so it's a very big thank you to our ever hardworking PTA for making this happen. There was also the PTA Duck race at the end of September which was great fun.

Several classes visited the recent Village Voices exhibition and we were delighted to be able to support the work of the Karuneipuri Orphanage as part of our Harvest service held at St Andrew's on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

We are all looking forward to the forthcoming building work in the school. This will see some much needed improvements in accommodation including an extension to the Thomas Feak Special Needs room (a very big thank you to the village Scarecrow Committee for their generous donation towards this) as well as the building of classroom 8. This does not mean an increase to pupil numbers - our capacity is 210 across 7 classes with 30 children being admitted each year. What it will provide is some additional space and much more flexibility for our teaching and learning.

Information about applications to start school from September 2009 will be going out shortly from Wokingham Borough Council so if you have a child due to start school during the next academic year you are most welcome to come to our next open morning on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am. Please contact the school office for more details.

In November we shall be celebrating St Andrew's Day at church, the PTA Christmas Fair is on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> and our Carol Service takes place on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm. Before we know it Christmas will be upon us.

Lesley Green

### **Sonning Twinning Association**

#### **Beaujolais Nouveau Evening: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm Pearson Hall**

Our next event will celebrate Beaujolais Nouveau on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November. This will be a wine tasting with cheeses, pate and salad and a pay bar will also be available. Tickets cost £10 for association members and £12.50 for non members.

The box office for this event is now open so please get your requests in quickly. Applications for tickets (including a cheque payable to Sonning Twinning Association and self addressed stamped envelope) should be sent to David Bates, The Gatehouse, Sonning Lane, Sonning, RG4 6ST. Please indicate any specific dietary requirements with your order.

During the evening there will also be an opportunity to hear from this year's Sonning bursary winner who will share his experiences of his visit to Ligugé. We very much hope that you will be able to join us for this special evening.

Lesley Green

**PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS**

By the **READING CENTRAL SALVATION ARMY BAND**  
(by kind permission of The Commanding Officer)

***A CONCERT OF MUSIC AND CAROLS***

on

Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 7.45 p.m.

The Flavell Suite, Sindlesham Court (Berkshire Masonic Centre)  
Mole Road, Sindlesham

Proceeds to the Macmillan Day Care Centre, Wokingham  
and local Rotary charities

Tickets: £6.00 to include coffee and mince pies,  
call: Sonia or Martin Boyles on 0118 969 2428

**RAFFLE**

**Sonning Floral arrangement Society**

Vice Chairman Sue Holmes opened the meeting and the Produce Show was discussed. It was noted that many entries, other than flower arrangements were poorly represented and it was suggested that we have a go next year at some of the others as well.

*Ready Steady Flowers* was really good fun. Everything was provided. We first had to choose the containers and then we worked in opposing pairs. My partner didn't turn up so Pam Byrne manfully took over thank goodness, and I tried to assist her in creating an arrangement whilst being interviewed by Sharon Robinson. We were allowed 20 minutes, which seemed like only 10 and we had to each flower at least once.

Our opposing couple were Deanna Lee and Rose Quantril, who won the first heat. We were followed by Anne Turner and Barbara McGregor opposite Joan Wise and Ann De Prato, who won the second heat and were overall winners. During the changeovers we were entertained by Sharon recounting

some amusing holiday incidents. Altogether, we did very well and the finished table looked good enough to raffle - which we did!

The sales table were selling some marvellous Christmas items and no doubt there will be more of this at the next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November, when Carole Dorwood will be demonstrating *Christmas Themes* and the competition will be *Baubles, Bangles and Beads*. The Christmas lunch is on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Jane Gascoine

### Sonning Glebe WI

At the beginning of October we held our harvest supper. I believe this is our 35<sup>th</sup> year of holding this celebration. The hall was decorated expertly by Catherine Penny who kindly donated all the flowers and decorations. The finished product was magnificent and we are very grateful to her. Everyone enjoyed a great evening that included a four course meal and entertainment.

October also brought us to our 45<sup>th</sup> birthday party and fifty members attended. We were pleased to welcome several members from other WI's as well as five potential new members. Hopefully we did not disturb too many residents in Pearson Road as we were taught to play (or sort of) the drums from different parts of the world. We were fortunate to have an excellent tutor in Guy Higgins who managed to control the proceedings with great expertise. After our final rendition we enjoyed a ploughman's supper followed by a mouth watering birthday cake made and decorated by one of our committee members, Sue Hockley.

On a really beautiful day we visited Harcourt Arboretum and thoroughly enjoyed our walk round the grounds admiring the colours of the trees and plants. After our walk we lunched at a nearby garden centre. Our regular activities are in full swing, e.g. knit and natter, scrabble and lunches at various venues. Our future programme is gradually taking shape, a skittles evening in November, A theatre trip to Sonning Mill in January and a visit to the London Palladium to see *Sister Act*.

The membership of Sonning Glebe WI is steadily growing which, hopefully, means we are doing something right and we are also appealing to a mixed age range. This also ensures the future of the WI in Sonning. If you are interested in joining us please contact me on 0118 969 4897.

Molly Oakley

## **Fish'n Chips Jazz Supper**

A great time was had at the Pearson hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, with 80 people attending. With generous donations and profits thereto, we raised £355.00 for the *Help the Heroes* well deserving charity.

A very big *Thank you* to all concerned.

**Jane Gascoine**

## **Sonning & Sonning Eye Society**

### **Traffic Management in Sonning and Sonning Eye**

The Chairman of our new joint Planning and Traffic Panel Dr Gary Robinson and Mr John Argent recently made a presentation to the Sonning Parish Council on Traffic Management in Sonning and Sonning Eye. The purpose of the presentation was to look at the current measures that are in place to manage traffic in Sonning and Sonning Eye and to look at other measures that could be introduced to reduce traffic speeds and increase safety whilst improving the aesthetics of the villages. The reduction of unnecessary signage and the introduction of psychological measures to manage traffic have been proven to work both in the UK and Europe. These measures have seen dramatic reductions in traffic speeds and accidents and have gone a long way towards enabling a less urban environment. The S&SES believes that the introduction of similar measures could go a long way towards improving road safety and returning both villages to a more rural setting.

The presentation was very well received by the Parish Council and following a productive exchange of views it was agreed that two members of the Planning and Traffic Panel be co-opted onto the Highways Working Group of the Parish Council to take matters forward.

### **Sonning & Sonning Eye Society AGM and Supper**

The Society's Annual General Meeting and Supper will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November at the Pearson Hall. The guest speaker will be Mr Ali Driver, National Conservation Policy Manager for the Environment Agency and founder S&SES member whose talk will, I know, be both interesting and entertaining. Tickets are priced at £10.00 and are available from Penny Feathers on 0118 934 3193.

**Mark Green**

## Pearson Hall Social Committee

The Pearson Hall Social Committee (PHSC) will be hosting their Christmas supper at 7.30 pm, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December at the Pearson Hall. Join us for a welcoming drink, a four-course dinner and special entertainment, from “The Hippopotamus and the Piano” as well as Carols, pay bar and a raffle. Due to the popularity of this event, tickets will be limited to 2 per application and priority will be given to those who were unlucky last year.

Tickets, priced at £14.00 per person, will be available from Judy Baldwin, The White House, High Street, Sonning, RG4 6UP. Please send a stamped and addressed envelope, together with your cheque (payable to PHSC) to arrive no later than Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Jeremy Gilmore

So, when did the recession start.....?



“The way they toss their funds around,  
they’re heading for default!”

## Local Organisations

St Andrew's: Sunday Club	Heather Hexter	946 1316
St Andrew's: Little Fishes	Mrs Sarah Turner	944 8154
St Andrew's: Tower Captain:	Mrs P. Elliston	969 5967
The Friends of St Andrew's	Sally Wilson	979 3328
St Patrick's: Sunday Club	Julie Easton	934 2590
1st Charvil Rainbows	Guider: Brenda Cowdery	934 5698
Charvil Art Club	Secretary: Mrs Joyce Wray	969 8098
Charvil Branch Conservatives	Mrs E. Hobbs	934 0528
Charvil Brownies	Tawny Owl: Claire Howells	934 5372
Charvil Caterpillar Club	Bridget Mundy	934 4253
Charvil Girls	Suzanne Newman	934 0589
Charvil Guides	Ruth Hulley	969 9431
Charvil Parish Council	Clerk: Mr I. Cohen	901 7693
Charvil Pre-School Playgroup	Nadine Doble	934 0418
Charvil Senior Residents Club	Miss C. Edwards	969 2114
Charvil Voices	Suzanne Newman	934 0589
Charvil Village Society	Margaret Gregory	934 5419
Charvil Women's Club	Shirley Newman	934 0589
Sonning & Charvil Baby-sitting Circle	Mrs Vanessa Jones	934 1185
	<i>E-mail</i> vanessalouisejones@hotmail.com	
Sonning & District Chernobyl	Maria Gee	962 7721
Children's Lifeline Link Group	maria.gee@ntlworld.com	
Sonning Art Group	Chairman: Mr G.B. Webster	944 0699
Sonning Book Club	Mrs Anne Webster	944 0699
Sonning Branch, British Legion	Chairman: Colin Pierce	969 3779
Sonning C of E Primary School	Head Teacher: Mrs L. Green	969 3399
Sonning CE School PTA	Heather Hollingsworth	0779 934 5129
Sonning Charvil & Hurst N.A.G.	Contact: Bob Hulley	969 9431
Sonning & Warren Conservatives	Sec: Alison Russell	972 1495
Sonning Cricket Club	Membership: Ali Driver	969 2698
Sonning Flower Club	Sec: Ms S. Robinson	969 0748
Sonning Football Club	Tony Farmer	956 6536
Sonning Girlguiding (age 5 -14)	Diane Reeves	969 2987
Sonning Glebe Art Club	Julian Toms	969 0100
Sonning Glebe WI (eve mtgs)	Mrs D. Mouldsley	961 8829
Sonning Lawn Tennis Club	Membership: Ali Campbell	969 1101
Sonning Liberal Democrats	Coling Lawley	961 8536
Sonning Neighbourhood Watch	Sec: Sue Bell	969 6924
Sonning Parish Council	Clerk, Mrs L. Bates	969 7753

Sonning RNLI	Chairman: David Bates	969 7753
1st Sonning Scouts Group	GS Leader: Wendy Cherry	926 2363
1st Sonning Scouts Group	ASG Leader: Mike Watts	962 8388
1 <sup>st</sup> Sonning Scouts Group	Scout Leader: Colin Giles	969 5849
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Cub Scouts: Alison King	962 1675
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Beavers: Judy Ricketts	969 3279
Sonning Table Tennis Club	Alan Tinson	969 0782
Sonning Twinning Association	David Bates	969 7753
Sonning Toddler Group	Emma James	969 5538
Sonning Village Players	Sec: Mr S. Atkins	969 1134
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society	Sec: Mrs P. Feathers	934 3193
Sonning Village Show	Sec: Mrs Heather Hine	969 8653
Sonning Club	Sec: Mrs Penney Mackenzie	07730 871959
Friends of Ali's Pond	Alastair Driver	969 2698
Monday Club	Leader: Ken Trimmings	969 1072
Pearson Hall	Caretaker & Bookings: Mrs Jenny Adams	969 7692
Pearson Hall Mgmt Committee	Mrs Lesley Bates (interim)	969 7753
Badminton Club	Mrs P. Pardoe	934 5643
Longmead Bridge Club	Chairman: Tony Cowling	969 5181
Rotary Club of Loddon Vale	Sec: Norman Mouldsley	961 8829
Short Mat Bowling Club	Mrs S. Newman	934 0589

### Useful web sites:

Ali's Pond	E-mail: <a href="mailto:ali@sonningdrivers.plus.com">ali@sonningdrivers.plus.com</a> <a href="http://www.sonning.net/alispond.html">www.sonning.net/alispond.html</a>
Sonning & Charvil services	<a href="http://www.sonningparish.org.uk/docs.htm">www.sonningparish.org.uk/docs.htm</a>
Sonning Parish Council	<a href="http://www.sonning-pc.gov.uk">www.sonning-pc.gov.uk</a>
Sonning Working Men's Club	<a href="http://www.btinternet.com/~sonning_club/news.html">www.btinternet.com/~sonning_club/news.html</a>
Sonning-on-Thames	<a href="http://archive.museophile.sbu.ac.uk/sonning">archive.museophile.sbu.ac.uk/sonning</a> <a href="http://www.sonning.net">www.sonning.net</a>
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society	<a href="http://www.sonning.org.uk">www.sonning.org.uk</a>
Sonning Art Group	<a href="http://www.sonningartgroup.org.uk">www.sonningartgroup.org.uk</a>
Sonning School	<a href="http://www.sonning.wokingham.sch.uk">www.sonning.wokingham.sch.uk</a>